

From: Doug Magnoli
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 4:15am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I am very concerned about what I've read of the Proposed Final Judgement (PFJ) of the Microsoft anti-trust suit. As written, the Judgement would allow Microsoft to continue to use restrictive licensing terms to keep Open Source applications from running on Windows. This hurts the entire Open Source community, and since Open Source applications are, therefore, predominantly used by competing operating systems, it hurts the users of those systems.

In addition to this, I believe that strong language is needed in the Judgement to prevent Microsoft from continuing to discriminate against small Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs). In short, Microsoft continues to harm those elements of the US information industry that are exactly what built this country. We need more OEMs, not fewer. We need to encourage OEMs to stay in business, not to help Microsoft to lay them to rest.

As written, the PFJ allows Microsoft to retaliate against any OEM that ships personal computers with a competing operating system and without Windows. This is exactly the opposite of what, in my opinion, needs to be done. OEMs need to be encouraged to ship competing operating systems--this is what keeps a market open and what offers options to consumers.

I truly hope the PFJ will not be accepted and that Microsoft will face some very strong regulating in the future.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Magnoli
Pleasanton, CA